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## **Franklin County Commissioner Paula Brooks Discusses Sexual Assault Prevention with U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy**

This morning, Commissioner Paula Brooks discussed sexual assault prevention with U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy at the Ohio State University College of Public Health. As part of her “Stopping Sexual Assault for Everyone” (SSAFE) initiative, she asked Surgeon General Vivek for CDC’s help in collecting better data on sexual assaults in Ohio, as well as throughout the nation. She highlighted a study done by the State of Iowa<sup>1</sup> which estimates that the cost of sexual violence totals \$5.8 billion annually in Iowa alone. She asked for support for Ohio and other states to conduct similar studies on the economic impacts of sexual violence.

“Billions of dollars are known to be spent on the aftermath of sexual assault, in one state alone,” Commissioner Brooks said. “Because we all know that a sexual assault victim carries that burden for the rest of her (or his) life, I asked U.S. Surgeon General Murthy for CDC help in Ohio, in partnering to get data that connects all of the hidden costs of sexual assault. Armed with more precise cost data, I’m hopeful that we can better pinpoint sexual assault prevention efforts. We simply can’t afford, nor should we stand for, sexual assault rates at the levels experienced here and throughout our nation”.

### **According to the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence:**

- Each rape in the U.S. costs approximately \$151,423.
- Rape is the most costly of all crimes in the U.S., followed by assault, murder, and drunk driving, including fatalities.
- Sexual violence survivors with a lifetime income loss estimated at \$241,600.
- Health care costs are 36% higher for women who were physically and sexually abused as children.
- Approximately 743,000 Ohio adult women are survivors of rape.

<http://www.oaesv.org/>

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.idph.state.ia.us/bh/common/pdf/sv\\_cost\\_iowa.pdf](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/bh/common/pdf/sv_cost_iowa.pdf)

Commissioner Brooks began her career tackling these and other issues as Director of the Women's Law Project and Special Assistant to the Ohio Attorney General. Further details can be found at:  
<http://www.franklincountyohio.gov/commissioners/paula-brooks.cfm>

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